

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes physically separated from each other, wherein each of said sets of data packets is provided by one of said non-synchronous compute nodes;

inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

outputting ~~logical group~~ of said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said inserting ~~step~~ further includes inserting said data packets into said software container according to individual packet time reference.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said locating ~~step~~ further includes locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to individual packet time reference.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said outputting ~~step~~ further includes outputting ~~logical group~~ of said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes physically separated from each other, wherein each of said sets of data packets is provided by one of said non-synchronous compute nodes;

means for inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

means for locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

means for protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

means for outputting ~~logical group~~ of said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

6. (original) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said means for inserting further includes means for inserting said data packets into a software container according to individual packet time reference.

7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said means for locating further includes means for locating common groups of said data packets within said container according to individual packet time reference.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said means for outputting further includes means for outputting ~~logical group of~~ said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

9. (currently amended) A computer storage medium having a computer program product ~~residing on a computer usable medium~~ for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said computer storage medium ~~program product~~ comprising:

computer program code ~~means~~ for receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes physically separated from each other, wherein each of said sets of data packets is provided by one of said non-synchronous compute nodes;

computer program code ~~means~~ for inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

computer program code ~~means~~ for locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

computer program code ~~means~~ for protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

computer program code ~~means~~ for outputting ~~logical group~~ of said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

10. (currently amended) The computer storage medium ~~program product~~ of Claim 9, wherein said computer program code ~~means~~ for inserting further includes computer program code ~~means~~ for inserting said data packets into a software container according to individual packet time reference.

11. (currently amended) The computer storage medium ~~program product~~ of Claim 10, wherein said computer program code ~~means~~ for locating further includes computer program code ~~means~~ for locating common groups of said data packets within said container according to individual packet time reference.

12. (currently amended) The computer storage medium ~~program product~~ of Claim 11, wherein said computer program code ~~means~~ for outputting further includes computer program code ~~means~~ for outputting ~~logical group~~ of said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.